

# Big Rapids Area Amateur Radio Club

December 2007

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## Announcements

### 1. Breakfast and meeting dates

Next BRAARC club breakfast Saturday: December 1 at 8:30 a.m. at the **Main Junction Restaurant in Barryton**. Talk-in on the 146.740 2-meter repeater for anyone needing directions.

December BRAARC monthly club meeting Thursday: **December 6 at 7 p.m.** at the Big Rapids Department Of Public Safety Building, located at 435 N. Michigan in Big Rapids.

### 2. Club nets:

A. 440 general net on 443.900 repeater Sunday evenings at 7:30 p.m.—to be resumed when 440 repeater is back in service.

B. 2-meter general net on 146.74 repeater Tuesday evenings at 9 p.m.

C. Local digital training/forum net on 146.74 2-meter repeater the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 8 p.m. (packet frequency to be used is 145.090).

D. Local ARES/RACES net on 146.74 2-meter repeater the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at 9 p.m.

3. If you would like to serve as net control for one or more of the BRAARC club nets, contact Tom Behler: KB8TYJ).

4. A BRAARC e-mail list serve or users group has been established for all BRAARC members to use as a forum for exchanging thoughts, ideas, questions, and any other concerns related to our club or amateur radio in general. If you'd like to join this group, please contact our club web master, Jake Spence, KI8CK. Jake will get you signed up on the list, and will give you verification that your registration has been completed and accepted.

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### October Breakfast

A fair contingent of the club enjoyed breakfast at Sharons in Rogers Heights on Saturday, October 27. (Missing in photo – Phil Marcotte, KC8QOV – photographer)

**November 1, 2007 BRAARC Meeting  
Minutes by Mike McKay, KD8DIB**

**Call to order:** 7:04 pm by Tom, WB8COX

**Guests:** Bill Kelso, N8NJA

**Secretary's report:** October 2007 minutes submitted by Mike, KD8DIB and approved.

**Treasurer's report:** November 2007 Financial Report submitted by Sue, KC8IFP and approved.

**Announcements:**

- Next Club Meeting Dec 6, 2007 at Big Rapids Department of Public Safety.
- We need net controls sign up with Tom, KB8TYJ
- 2 meter net on 146.47 repeater Tuesdays at 9pm
- 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays – Digital Net on 2 meter repeater at 8pm
- 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays – ARES / RACES Net
- Email [Jakeaspence@charter.net](mailto:Jakeaspence@charter.net) to join the Club Listserve.
- Pot Luck Dinner – November 3, 2007 at 4pm Location: Masonic Lodge
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**Old Business:**

- FSU demo a success
- Saving CD – renewed with Flagstar.
- Red Cross disaster assessment training – Bob WB8YPG set a date with Red Cross to conduct training Saturday, January 19, 2008.
- Contact Don, WA4FRJ about equipment still available. Watch the newsletter & list your own equipment for sale

**New Business:**

- Repeater Committee Meeting Reports:
  - 440 Crystals ordered for temporary repeater
  - 440 Antenna (\$369) purchase – approved by members present

- 6 meter – Jeff Barstow, WD8DLK to host repeater.
- 2 meter backup – moving to location for testing
- 2 meter repeater increasing power
- batteries to be tested for 2 meter
- Repeater committee members to be issued control codes
- 911 calling macro to be fixed
- Possible adding PL to output (only) – this will not disturb normal operations of 2 meter repeater
- IRLP to be tested on the 440 in the future
- Future discussion about linking options for 2 meter and 440
- Obtained Club Calls for Mecosta & FSU EOC's Mike, KD8DIB & Tom, KB8TYJ continuing work on vanity call.
- Financial Audit to be conducted by Fritz, NI8E by January 2008

**Program:** So you want to have a swap, maybe?!? by Bill Kelso, N8NJA

**50/50 winner:** Bev, WD8PFC

**Newsletter:** Articles to Phil, KC8QOV by November 14 (phildolly@power-net.net)

**Club Breakfast:** Saturday, December 1, 2007 at the Main Junction (m66 & us10) restaurant at 8:30am.

**Refreshments:** Steve, KD8DHZ

**Adjourn:** 9:05 pm

**Presidents Comments:**

The next club presentation is going to be: Programming your radio. We will discuss how to configure radios. Everyone is encouraged to bring their HT's or mobile radios to the meeting (please bring manuals if you have them). I will bring a dummy load and a power supply for any mobile radios. Anyone who has a 440 radio is encouraged to bring that along also.

Tom  
WB8COX



**Repeater Committee Meeting Minutes – October , 2007** (With apologies for omitting this from the November newsletter.)

Discussions and Actions:

The committee voted to add Tom WB8COX and Mike KD8DIB to the repeater committee

440 repeater: Getting this repeater back on the air is the highest priority of the group. Tom WB8COX has supplied a 440 transmitter that needs a new crystal and will also need to be retuned to the new frequency. There are also several 440 amplifiers that could be used with this transmitter. The repeater also needs a new antenna. The group will also explore getting the Motorola Radius radios working again. The repaired radio will put out rated power for only a few minutes before it backs off to 3 watts.

6M repeater: explore putting the repeater at the WB8COX property. This requires putting up a tower but the elevation is good for this band. The first step is to survey the potential locations for the tower and housing the equipment. Note that power will need to be run to the shed and phone will probably not be available, WIFI could be made available though.

2M backup: try taking it up to the hill and see if

it works correctly. The thought is that it is working but it needs to be tested. The goal is to do this before Thanksgiving.

2M Repeater: Increase the power. This may require replacing the exiting power supply with a larger one. Related to this is that the batteries are 3 years old and may need to be replaced.

Control Operators: The repeater committee will all be given the codes to shutdown and bring up the repeater. If someone hears a problem, contact any of the committee and they can take corrective action.

911 Calling Macros on 2m Repeater: it is thought that the controller on the hill is actually the backup controller and does not have the macros installed. The plan is to copy the program in the backup repeater and, assuming it has the correct programming, copy it to the controller on the hill.

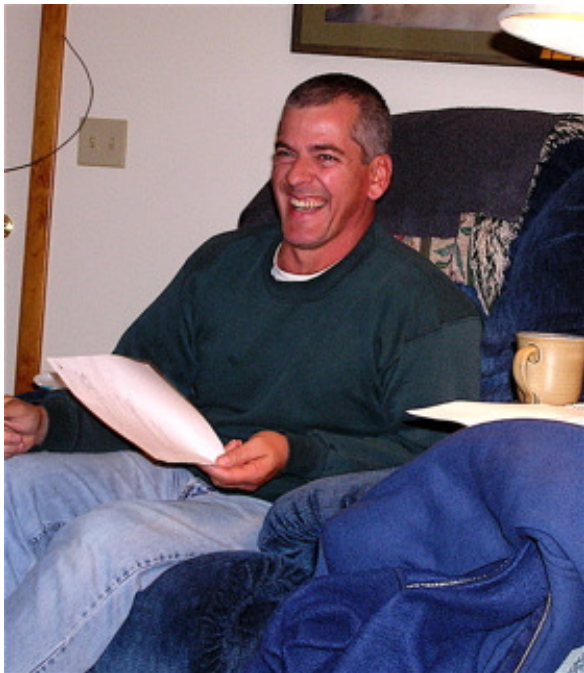
PL for the 2M repeater: the problem is that many base stations that like to monitor the 2m repeater also hear other repeaters. The decision is to investigate putting 94.8 PL on the repeater output only so that those with PL decoding in their radios can ignore extraneous signals. This would not effect accessing the repeater.

In a related note, it was decided to explore being able to activate PL on the input if conditions warrant it.

IRLP: the decision is that after the 440 is up and running we will add IRLP to the 440 repeater. This will require accessing the repeater using PL to enable using the IRLP node. The node is tentatively hosted at KB8TYJ's house. Echolink was discussed, and is also a desire. The IRLP node is already available (sitting idle) and could be brought on line quickly.

Linking the 2m and 440 repeaters: The decision was made to investigate what it would take but not necessarily implement anything at this time. The general opinion is that there isn't a

huge advantage in doing this at this time considering the potential expense and how little it might be used. It is thought that the controllers are more than capable of supporting this and it would only require a pair of transceivers and antennas to implement this.



Fritz laughing at the repeater committee meeting.

